

# 2023-2024 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

## Nominated for: Outstanding Role Model

***Dr. Karin Susskind***

Dear Golden Stethoscope Nomination Committee,

As a medical student fortunate enough to be mentored by Dr. Karin Susskind, I am thrilled to nominate her for a Golden Stethoscope in the Outstanding Role Model category. Dr. Susskind has been an integral part of my growth throughout the last year. She's role modeled numerous traits I hope to incorporate into my future practice:

- **Patient-Centered Care:** Dr. Susskind's ability to make patients feel comfortable is extraordinary. Her lighthearted style, quick laughter, and genuine concern put patients at ease. She balances this with a deep understanding of each of her patients - nudging or standing firm when she knows a patient's tendencies. This was exemplified by her proactive scheduling of specialist appointments for a patient in poor health. She knew the likelihood of him scheduling them himself was low, so went the extra mile to remove that barrier. These seemingly small gestures add up to significant differences in individual patient outcomes.
- **Advocacy for Community Health:** Dr. Susskind's leadership at Boulder Medical Center, the largest physician-owned practice in the state, underscores her commitment to community well-being and advocacy. She brings in speakers to facilitate sessions on physician power and privilege and healthcare inequities to grow the knowledge of providers within the community.
- **Community Reputation:** Dr. Susskind's reputation precedes her throughout the Boulder community. When I mentioned that I was precepting with Dr. Susskind to a few physicians in the community, the theme of the responses was "You're with Karen! She's incredible, you're so lucky!" Her positive influence extends far beyond medicine. Through their actions, numerous patients have shown a similar sentiment, commuting from as far away from Denver to continue receiving her care.
- **Teaching:** From day one, Dr. Susskind has been focused on helping me grow. She starts each session by identifying my goals and outlining a plan for how to accomplish them with the day's patients. She gave consistent, frequent coaching on interview skills, oral presentations, and clinical reasoning. Each day, she made me feel that my growth was important to her.

Dr. Susskind embodies the qualities of an outstanding clinical preceptor: patient-centered care, advocacy, clinical excellence, and teaching. She's been an instrumental part of my clinical education and I hope others will have the opportunity to learn from her in the future. Thank you for considering this nomination.

Written by: Kyle S.J. Jamar, Class of 2027